

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8448

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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PARIS FOR UNESCO

1. AT A FORMAL NOV. 30 CEREMONY IN VATICAN CITY ATTENDED BY CARDINALS, ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO HOLY SEE, AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, POPE PAUL PRESENTED JOHN XXIII PEACE PRIZE TO NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO AMADOU MAHTAR M'BOW. IN HIS SPEECH WHICH DEALT MAINLY WITH HISTORY OF UNESCO ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF PEACE, PONTIFF INSERTED FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH REFERRING TO RECENT UNESCO ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL:

QUOTE WHEN TODAY'S ENCOUNTER WAS FIXED, THE EPISODE WHICH IN THE LAST FEW DAYS HAS MOVED SUCH A LARGE SECTION OF THE CULTURAL WORLD COULD NOT BE FORESEEN, THAT IS SOME DELIBERATIONS OF THE RECENT GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO.

HERE, THEREFORE, WE ARE BY SURPRISE FACED BY A FACT WHICH TROUBLES THE SERENITY OF THIS HAPPY MOMENT BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION.

THEREFORE WE EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE UNFORESEEN CASE MAY FIND RAPID SOLUTION CONFIDENT AS WE ARE IN THE COMMON DESIRE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE ON THE PART OF THOSE INVOLVED.

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AND WE CALL FOR THIS THINKING THAT THE FIRST TO REJOICE  
OVER THIS WILL BE THE ILLUSTRIOUS GUESTS WHO WE ARE HONORED  
TODAY TO HAVE HERE, THE DIRECTOR AND MEMBERS OF UNESCO -- WITH  
RESPECT TO THE UNIVERSAL AND PEACEFUL CHARACTER AND... THE  
SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE WHICH CHARACTERIZES IT, WHILE BEING ALIEN  
TO POLITICAL CONFLICTS AND ALWAYS CONSISTENT WITH ITS EDUCA-  
TIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL AIMS AS WITNESSED BY ITS INTER-  
EST FOR THE VALUES OF HISTORY, ART AND RELIGION OF A TERRITORY  
WHICH IS FOR ALL MOST BELOVED AND SACRED. UNQUOTE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS ON APPROPRIATENESS  
OF AWARDING JOHN XXIII PRIZE TO UNESCO FOLLOWING ITS "EXPULSION"  
OF ISRAEL, VATICAN PRESS SPOKESMAN ALESSANDRINI STATED NOV. 29  
THAT (A) ISRAEL HAD NOT BEEN EXPELLED, (B) THE PRIZE HAD BEEN  
AWARDED ON OCT. 28 AND ANNOUNCED NOV. 14, THEREFORE BEFORE PRO-  
BLEM WITH ISRAEL, AND (C) PRIZE WAS GIVEN TO UNESCO FOR ITS WORK  
CARRIED OUT OVER 28 YEARS IN FAVOR OF PEACE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT  
OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

3. ISRAELI EMBASSY ROME, WHICH LAST WEEK MADE KNOWN TO VATICAN  
THEIR DISPLEASURE OVER AWARDING OF JOHN XXIII PRIZE TO UNESCO  
UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, CONFIRMED TO US THAT INCLUSION OF  
ABOVE PARAGRAPH IN POPE'S SPEECH HAS SATISFIED THEM COMPLETELY.  
EMBASSY OFFICER SAID GOI HOPEFUL THAT POPE'S FIRM STATE-  
MENT WILL ENCOURAGE MANY CATHOLIC GOVERNMENTS TO SEEK REVERSAL  
UNESCO DECISION.VOLPE

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